

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00343 211357Z

67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 NSC-10 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 /144 W
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R 210905Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5275

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, MT, UR, IT

SUBJ: SOVIET AND ITALIAN CEMENT

REF: USDAO 0073 191630Z

WHILE THERE MAY BE BASIS FOR REPORTED PREFERENTIAL PRICES FOR SOVIET CEMENT TO MALTA, PRICES INDICATED IN REFTEL NOT RPT NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT MARKET INDICATIONS. EX-QUAY PRICE AUTHORIZED BY GOM TRADE DEPARTMENT FOR IMPORTED ITALIAN "PORTLANDS" CEMENT HAS JUST BEEN INCREASED APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT, I.E., BY 31.3 MALTA CENTS TO 94.6 MALTA CENTS PER 50 KILOGRAMS BAGS. THIS WORKS OUT TO 18.98 MALTA POUNDS PER TON (ONE MALTA POUND EQUALS APPROX 2.55 DOLLARS). TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED BY GOM INDICATE IMPORTED COST FOR ITALIAN CEMENT DURING FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1973 AT 8.85 MALTA POUNDS PER TON OR APPROXIMATELY TEN PERCENT ABOVE PRICE (8.1 MALTA POUNDS) FOR SIMILAR PRODUCT IMPORTED FROM SOVIET UNION.

2. COMMENT: TRADE SOURCES INDICATE ITALIAN CEMENT ALSO BEING SOLD BY MALTA AT PREFERENTIAL PRICES.GETZ

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